

Application Number 10/044,040
Amendment dated November 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2004

REMARKS

The Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Confirmation of their acceptability is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prieto (U.S. Patent Number 5,974,181) in view of Martucci, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,298,167). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pesquet-Popescu, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,519,284) in view of Prieto. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4, including intervening claims 2 and 3, and claim 9 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 11, including intervening claim 10. Claims 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11 are canceled. New independent claim 16 is allowable claim 5 rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 17-19 contain subject matter similar to that of claims 6-8, respectively. Since they depend from allowable claim 16, they are also believed to be allowable. New independent claim 20 is allowable claim 12 rewritten in independent form, and new dependent claims 21 and 22 contain the same subject matter as claims 13 and 14, respectively. Since claims 21 and 22 depend from allowable claim 20, it is believed that they are also allowable.

Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 6-9 and 12-14 remain in the application. Since they all incorporate allowable subject matter, they are all believed to be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Prieto and Martucci, *et al.* is respectfully requested.

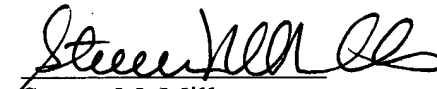
With regard to claim 15, the claim is canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pesquet-Popescu, *et al.* in view of Prieto is overcome.

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In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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